Lafayette Historical Society
P.O. Box 133
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MOUNT DIABLO TOPIC FOR NOVEMBER MEETING

Our November meeting will be Tuesday, November 21, 8 pm, at the Lafayette School auditorium. Our speaker will be Egon Pedersen who will show slides of Mt. Diablo and speak about its history. Mr. Pedersen was president of the Save Mt. Diablo Committee, served three years as chairman of the Mt. Diablo Historical Landmarks Committee, is a member of the County Historical Society and the Mt. Diablo Interpretive Assoc. and served for four years as a director of the San Ramon Valley Historical Society.

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TOWN HALL CEREMONY

The Town Hall plaquing on Oct. 12 was attended by a good crowd which included Joe Ghiglione, son of Rose and Frank Ghiglione, who donated the land for Town Hall. George Wasson was master of ceremonies and remarks were made by Bob Roche, mayor, Jack Babcock, president of the Lafayette Improvement Association and Shirley Manaut, treasurer of the Dramateurs. The Reverend William N. Abeloe, historian and pastor of Mission San Jose, gave the dedication speech. He spoke of the early days of Town Hall and pointed out that the building was an excellent example of what can be done to restore old buildings and keep them in use. He challenged our society and the people of Lafayette to start a movement to restore the old buildings of Plaza Square and make the Square into an old town type shopping center. The plaque was unveiled and coffee and cake were served.

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EXHIBITS

A new and colorful Christmas display of nutcrackers is now in the side window of the Lafayette Savings & Loan. The nutcrackers range from decorative to practical to down right ingenious - a very interesting display.

At Lafayette School we have a fine display on Jennie Bickerstaff.

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FOR CHRISTMAS GIVING

Dolly Pfautch's Needlepoint Shop on Lafayette Circle has our books, notepaper and post cards for sale. They will also be on sale at our November meeting.

ORAL HISTORY

Angela Broadhead taped an interview with Grace Franke who was born in Oakland in 1893. Mrs. Franke's mother and father came to this country from England and crossed to California by train. They spoke of Shoshone Indians in Idaho who came into the kitchen and inspected the contents of the pots on the stove and asked for tea and bisquits. Mrs. Franke spoke on the changes in this area in the last 40 years. Her family came out here at first for weekends and vacations to get away from the city. They moved here permanently in 1937. She attributes the changes that have occurred to the building of the tunnel, piped water and the building of Acalanes High School.

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M. H. STANLEY SCHOOL

It has come to the attention of the Society's board of directors that the name of Stanley School may be changed. Fairview School will be merging with Stanley and when two schools merge into one it is sometimes felt that a new name should be chosen for the remaining school.

Naturally, we are interested in this matter because of the many years of service Mr. Stanley gave to Lafayette. The following is a partial list of Mr. Stanley's many activities:

Lafayette "Man of the Year" - 1955
25 years a Member of Lafayette School District Board
16 years a Member of Acalanes High School District Board
20 years a Commissioner of Lafayette Fire District
25 years Secretary of Water District.
Commander, Lafayette American Legion Post
Member of the Lafayette Church Board
Director of Lafayette Improvement Association.
He was instrumental in the formation of the Acalanes High District

Our president, George Wasson, wrote a letter to the school board strongly urging them not to change the name and asked to be advised of any hearings on the matter so that the society could send representatives to any such hearings.

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ORINDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Judith Waldhorn will speak on "Restoration of the Victorians" on Wed., November 15 at 7:30 pm at the Orinda Library. She teaches and writes about San Francisco Victorian architecture.

CORRECTION

George Wasson's street number as listed in the membership roster under officers should be changed to 3123.

THANK YOUS

Many thanks to Ted Craig for a fine job of arranging the Town Hall plaquing, to Eleanor Meyers and Edith Viguers for serving coffee and cake there and to Reidun Gaustad for selling note paper and books at the parade and before the plaquing.